IN THE CLAIMS

Below is a complete listing of all of the claims in the application with the status of each claim provided after the claim number.

Particularly, please amend claims 1-4, 6-8, 13, 15 and 20 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of operating a self-service checkout terminal comprising the steps of:

allowing <u>consumer</u> scanning of an item for purchase via a scanner;

determining<u>, after successfully scanning the item,</u> whether the item has an active electronic article surveillance tag; and

allowing deactivation of the active electronic article surveillance tag <u>by the consumer via an active electronic article surveillance tag deactivator</u> ~~when it is determined~~ <u>after determining</u> that the item ~~includes~~ <u>has</u> an electronic article surveillance tag.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining whether ~~an~~ <u>the</u> item has an active electronic article surveillance tag includes the step of utilizing an electronic article surveillance detector.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of utilizing an electronic article surveillance detector, includes utilizing ~~an~~ <u>the</u> electronic article

surveillance detector that is associated with the scanner.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining whether the electronic article surveillance tag has been deactivated after the step of allowing deactivation of the active electronic article surveillance tag ~~when it is determined~~ after determining that the item includes ~~an~~ the electronic article surveillance tag.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of determining whether the electronic article surveillance tag has been deactivated includes the step of utilizing a second electronic article surveillance detector.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of utilizing a second electronic article surveillance detector, includes the step of utilizing ~~a~~ the second electronic article surveillance detector that is associated with a bagwell of the self checkout.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of utilizing a second electronic article surveillance detector, includes the step of utilizing ~~a~~ the second electronic article surveillance detector that is associated with a security scale of the self checkout.

8. (currently amended) A self checkout comprising:

a scanner operative to scan an item;

an electronic article surveillance detector operative to detect whether a ~~successfully~~ scanned item has an active electronic article surveillance tag; and

an electronic article surveillance deactivator operative to deactivate the active electronic article surveillance tag ~~when it is determined~~ after determining by the electronic article surveillance detector that a scanned item has ~~an~~ the active electronic article surveillance tag.

9. (original) The self checkout of claim 8, wherein the electronic article surveillance detector is associated with the scanner.

10. (original) The self checkout of claim 8, further comprising a second electronic article surveillance detector that is operative to determine whether the electronic article surveillance tag has been deactivated by the electronic article surveillance deactivator.

11. (original) The self checkout of claim 10, wherein the second electronic article surveillance detector is associated with a bagwell of the self checkout.

12. (original) The self checkout of claim 10, wherein the second electronic article surveillance detector is associated with a security scale of the self checkout.

9423
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13. (currently amended) The self checkout of claim 8, wherein the electronic article surveillance detector comprises a coil and electronic circuitry/logic that is operative to obtain a signal from the coil indicative of ~~an~~ the active electronic article surveillance tag.

14. (original) The self checkout of claim 13, wherein the coil and electronic circuitry/logic are modular.

15. (currently amended) A self checkout comprising:

a processor;

a scanner in communication with the processor;

an electronic article surveillance detector in communication with the processor;

an electronic article surveillance deactivator; and

a memory in communication with the processor and storing program instructions which, when executed by the processor, causes the processor to: (a) allow scanning of an item for purchase via the scanner, (b) determine, after successful scanning of the item, whether the item has an active electronic article surveillance tag via the electronic article surveillance detector, and (c) allow deactivation of the active electronic article surveillance tag ~~when it is determined~~ after determining that the item includes an electronic article surveillance tag.

Page 7 of 23

16. (original) The self checkout of claim 15, wherein the electronic article surveillance detector is associated with the scanner.

17. (original) The self checkout of claim 15, further comprising a second electronic article surveillance detector, and the memory has further program instructions which, when executed by the processor, causes the processor to determine via the second article surveillance detector whether the electronic article surveillance tag has been deactivated by the electronic article surveillance deactivator.

18. (original) The self checkout of claim 17, wherein the second electronic article surveillance detector is associated with a bagwell of the self checkout.

19. (original) The self checkout of claim 17, wherein the second electronic article surveillance detector is associated with a security scale of the self checkout.

20. (currently amended) The self checkout of claim 15, wherein the electronic article surveillance detector comprises a coil and electronic circuitry/logic, and the memory has further program instructions which, when executed by the processor, causes the processor to cause the electronic circuitry/logic obtain a signal from the coil indicative of an the active electronic article surveillance tag.